

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 8, line 5, with the following rewritten paragraph:

~~FIG. 1~~ FIG. 2 is a graph showing temperature changes of an outer surface and a central portion of a formed structure in a case where the formed structure containing a pore former (starch) and binder (hydroxypropyl methyl cellulose) is fired according to a firing program for raising a firing temperature at a constant speed. On the other hand, ~~FIG. 2~~ FIG. 1 is a graph showing the temperature changes of the outer surface and the central portion of the formed structure in a case where the formed structure containing a pore former (starch) and binder (hydroxypropyl methyl cellulose) is fired according to a firing program wherein the firing atmosphere temperature is held at the combustion start temperature of the binder from the time when the firing atmosphere temperature reaches a combustion start temperature (220°C) of the binder (hydroxypropyl methyl cellulose) to the time when the binder (hydroxypropyl methyl cellulose) is burnt out. It is to be noted that in the respective figures, a dotted line indicates the temperature of the formed structure central portion, and a solid line shows the temperature of its outer surface and the firing atmosphere temperature.